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'One of a kind' season

Local farmers have nothing but praise
for this spring's planting conditions
Page 3

More than \$900,000 raised

The Ranking Cancer Run took several
more steps toward finding a cure
Page 6

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Fun with two-wheeling safety lessons

MARYANNE
FIRTH
POSTMEDIA
NETWORK
Four-year-old Liam Wyatt cruises through the bike rodeo Saturday during Port Colborne's annual Safety Awareness Day. See story and photos on page 2.

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UPFRONT

■ **COMMUNITY:** Family event held to promote all aspects of keeping safe in the community

Celebrating safety in Port Colborne

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Helmets, seatbelts, knowledge — they all play a role in keeping people safe.

In an effort to educate the city's youngest residents, Port Colborne's community safety committee held a family-friendly event Saturday that drew dozens of families to the city's Mellinby Ave. fire hall.

The 21st annual Safety Awareness Day and Bike Rodeo included displays and interactive games hosted by Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services and Niagara Regional Police, as well as several other community groups.

"We have so many children here in Port Colborne. We want to help them learn about

as many aspects of safety in the community as we can," said committee chair Angie Desmarais.

While the event was aimed mainly at elementary school-aged children, there was something for everyone to learn, she said.

Port Colborne's Optimist Club ran the popular bike rodeo, stressing the importance of helmets and bike safety, the mayor's youth advisory council taught tips for skateboard safety, Port Colborne Feline Initiative offered advice on how to safely interact with animals and Habitat for Humanity provided guidance on how to stay safe at home.

Families were able to learn about the safety equipment

and vehicles used by local police and firefighters, and were offered fire safety tips handy for people of all ages.

Natasha Sullivan felt it was time her four-year-old son, Brock, began learning more about fire safety.

"We try to enforce safety at home as much as we can," said the Port Colborne resident.

"He's at that age when he should begin to know."

As the day combines fun and games with educational components, children tend to remember the lessons more, Sullivan said, while crediting all involved for putting on the important event.

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PHOTOS BY MARYANNE FIRTH/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Firefighter Wayne Benner shows four-year-old Brock Sullivan and nine-year-old Evan Gravelle how to handle the powerful firefighting hose during Port Colborne's annual Safety Awareness Day Saturday.



Four-year-old Brock Kenny tried his hand at the strongman competition.



Three-year-old Nico Ventresca is ready for his future career in firefighting. The youngster, with the assistance of mom Krista Ventresca, tried on a pint-sized firefighter uniform during Port Colborne's annual Safety Awareness Day Saturday.

LOCAL NEWS

■ **AGRICULTURE:** Crop farmers have early optimum conditions to seed; orchards pull through harsh winter



MIKE HENSEN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

It looks to be an optimal planting season for Niagara growers.

'One of a kind' planting season

ROB HOULE

Postmedia Network

It's been a great season for working the land, Wainfleet crop farmer Gerry Prentice says.

"This has been one of the best springs for planting that we've seen in a long time," said Prentice, regional director for Grain Farmers of Ontario.

A dry spring has allowed crop farmers to get on their fields earlier to first plant corn, which requires a longer grow period, then soybeans.

The arid conditions in late April and so far in May this year contrast the cold and soggy spring of 2014 when many farmers were forced to alter their seeding plans. Farmers aim to get their corn in by the end of May and no

later than the first week of June to allow the plant enough time to produce.

"There's definitely more corn than last year because last year was such a rotten planting season," said Prentice, who farms 280 hectares in Wainfleet and Dunnville.

"This year is one of a kind, it's (weather) we haven't seen in a long time.

While there will be more corn stalks along rural roads than last year, Prentice said he has had to alter his seeding plan because of a shortage of fertilizer. Going into seeding, he was planning a 60-40 corn-over-beans split, but because he had to wait for fertilizer, that split will now favour soybeans. Prentice attributed the fertilizer shortage to suppliers

being caught off guard by the early plantings "and everybody going at the same time."

Prentice, who was toiling in a field when contacted earlier last week, said he expected to wrap up seeding on the weekend.

E-mails from other Grain Farmers of Ontario directors, Prentice said, indicate farmers in other regions are done seeding or will be over the next few days.

Over on the other side of the Welland Canal, Joe Schonberger, the Niagara South Federation of Agriculture president, was waiting out a cold snap before getting back on the field of his Darby Rd. farm in Port Robinson.

"It's been really, really cold," Schonberger said. "So we just

haven't got there yet. There's still some time. It would be nice if it were done, but it's not, so we'll survive."

Schonberger said he isn't alone.

"There's a lot of land that hasn't been planted in this area so far," he said.

"Most of us are growing soybeans — soybeans don't really enjoy going into cold ground, and it's kind of cold out there right now," he said Thursday night, explaining beans going into cold ground could stunt their growth.

While he was still waiting to get on his 92 hectares, he was confident of being done planting long before he did last year.

"Hopefully next week, I get going. And hopefully before

June gets here or shortly thereafter we should be done. I'm hoping to not be planting soybeans on the last day of June like we have been the last couple of years," Schonberger said.

Over in Niagara's apple and tender-fruit orchards, trees have come through better than expected following the harsh winter.

"It looks pretty good in certain areas and some areas they've got a little bit of damage," said Niagara-on-the-Lake grower Phil Tregunno, who is chairman of Vineland Growers Co-operative and chair of Ontario Tender Fruit Producers Marketing Board.

"Generally, it looks like it's going to be a good crop.

"It's amazing that we've had

such cold temperatures and things have come through that well."

Ontario Apple Growers director Art Moyer, who grows 30 hectares of apples, 16 hectares of sour cherries and 10 hectares of pears on his Grimsby farm said his trees have also held up well to the coldest winter on record in Niagara.

"Sour cherries looked OK during bloom, looks very good for pollination. Same thing with the pears and apples," Moyer said.

Moyer said in his travels across Niagara, his observations revealed similar orchard conditions to his.

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■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

I've been thinking about revolution and Christian faith

FR. DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT
St. Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox Church

The cultural and legal battle today is not just between gay rights and religious liberty, but between the sexual revolution and Christianity itself. So said David French, Harvard law school graduate, professor and author.

Simply put, the sexual revolution questions everything about sexual morality and identity — demanding changes in every aspect of traditional sexual morality and, consequently, orthodox Christian theology.

French said that the principles of radical sexual autonomy, freedom from any form of moral judgment, and government support to ease the consequences of sexual libertinism are present in the fights over abortion, gay rights and now transgender issues.

Those who surrender on one issue tend to surrender on others as well."

French thinks that the sexual revolution's victory is not assured. No major orthodox Christian denomination is reconsidering its stance on the sexual revolution issues — not the Catholics, the Orthodox or for example the Southern Baptists. This means that a huge number of Americans and Canadians remain opposed to the sexual revolution's anything-goes belief.

The struggles between the sexual revolution and Christianity will stop only if Christians abandon our historic faith on a national scale or if the left decides that it is content to live and let live.

For the time being, however, neither side looks ready to yield. We Christians need to be prepared for more struggles over campus and school intolerance, boycotts and cultural anger and division.

But for authentic Christianity, this is nothing new.

"Cultural rejection is a scriptural promise and a longtime historical fact. As Christians in the Middle East and Africa face hideous

violence, we should not be overwhelmed by relatively minimal persecution. Christianity has survived lions. It is surviving beatings. It can certainly withstand Twitter."

In his sermon on the narrow gate said, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

The narrow gate is Jesus himself, who also said that he is the way, the truth and the life, and that no one comes to the Father except through him. Shortly after saying this, our Lord prayed for his disciples, saying, "Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth."

Holiness is crucial for the salvation of the world. The ancient Israelites were called to be holy and the New Testament Christians were called to be holy, not just for their personal salvation, but also so that they might be a blessing for all the tribes of the earth.

The core of holiness is self-giving love and

this is why the first and second great commandments of the law call for love, and why Christ's new commandment is that Christians love one another.

Underlying holy love is Christ's calling: "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Holy love involves self-denial oriented on Christ.

Our world is a fallen world. Our human love is a fallen love. Our reason is fallen. Nothing is more blind, says St. Nicolai Velimirovich, than human understanding when darkened by sin. And so we need to be guided by Holy Scripture interpreted in the light of Christ and by the Holy Spirit speaking to Christ's Church over the centuries.

We need self-control, especially in sexual matters. Fallen human love is as strong as death, sang Solomon, and our goal should be to keep it in marriage of a man and a woman, for such marriage alone is blessed by our Creator.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Barde Team is pictured at Houston, Texas, in 1992 by Harry Stott.

SKIP GILLHAM
For Postmedia Network

The heavy lift vessel *Barde Team* came through the St. Lawrence Seaway in July 1992, stopping at Hamilton and then sailing to Thorold where it took on a cargo for E.S. Fox.

The vessel had been built at Leer, West Germany, and completed in July 1976 as *Samson Scan*. The 94.5-metre-long, Danish-registered freighter came to the Great Lakes during its first year but spent almost all of its time in saltwater service. The ship was sold and re-registered in

Shipwrecks — Barde Team

the Netherlands Antilles as *Antje* in 1985 and became *Barde Team*, under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda, in 1989.

The ship sailed for a decade under the final name and was often engaged in the transportation of equipment to a chemical plant under construction on the island of Trinidad.

Barde Team, now under the flag of Norway, was carrying steel pipes loaded at Singapore when it began taking on water on Dec. 24, 1995. The vessel took on a severe list before it toppled over and sank in the Indian Ocean on Christmas Eve. All on board were saved.

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■ RANKIN RUN

12,000 cancer fighters hit road

BOB TYMCZYNSZYN
Postmedia Network

It wasn't long after she crossed the finish line of the Rankin Cancer Run that the emotion got the best of Andrea Abbott and she took in a long hug from her daughter, Zoe.

Abbott was the first cancer survivor

wearing an orange T-shirt to cross the finish line Saturday, as more than 12,000 supporters and survivors took part in the 10th annual run that started at Grimsby Lions Park in St. Catharines.

"Usually I'm a little more together," she said, as she wiped away a tear.

She returned this year after not participating in 2014.

"It's bittersweet," she said. "I don't want to be wearing the orange shirt, but I am. And I come out here to show people that you can be strong again after undergoing chemotherapy."

Abbott said chemo was the most difficult ordeal she has ever had to endure.

"I lost my sister to breast cancer while I was going through chemo. I do this for her and for all the col-

leagues I have going through cancer."

"I'm still going. I'm strong" Seven and a half years ago, Abbott underwent surgery and chemotherapy for breast cancer here in Niagara.

She supports the Rankin Run, as well as other events like the Big Move, because she feels it's important to back local efforts and care providers.

"Going through cancer is stressful enough, without having to leave the region for treatment," she said.

"If you have young kids, if you have a job, you've got other things in your life when you're young. It hits you really hard."

In its first nine years, the Rankin Run has raised about \$4.6 million. All the money it collects stays in Niagara, for services that support cancer care and help patients and their families.

Television sports broadcaster Ron MacLean, who helped start the run on the weekend, was not surprised by the turnout Saturday.

"It's an amazing show of support," he said. "Imagine 12,000 people out doing something good for cancer."

MacLean was running in memory of Bob Meunier, a longtime Rankin Run organizer who died in January 2013. MacLean stopped to chat and take selfies with other runners and spectators.

"It's an honour to share in the legacy of Mary Ann's (Edwards) and Bob's idea," he said.

Just before the start, longtime supporter Tom Rankin took the stage to announce a donation by local businessman Mike Washuta worth \$100,000.

That brought the total raised this year to just over \$900,000.

Rankin, who was there with a large group, said he never imagined how successful the run would be when it started 10 years ago. He recalled Edwards calling him 10 years ago, asking if he wanted to be the main sponsor.

"Anything Mary Ann wants to do, I'll kick her. She's just that kind of person," said Rankin.

It seemed Pamela RD. would burst at the seams at one point Saturday as the runners and walkers started the five-kilometre event.

Looking back 10 years, Edwards said she is pleased with the growth every year.

"In the first year we hoped for 50, and we had just over 3,000," she said. "Today they were coming in from many different cities."

"We have a gentleman that comes in from Timmins, Ont., every year, many from Toronto and one person from France."

And she thanks the volunteers and the sponsors. She added Dannel Bus Lines donate its services to shuttle students in from around the region.

"That way, 100% of the money goes toward cancer services in Niagara," she said.

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BOB TYMCZYNSZYN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Rankin Cancer Run hit another record turnout for the 10th annual fundraiser Saturday. Organizers estimated 12,000 people participated in the one-kilometre and five-kilometre runs and walks.

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MARYANNE FIRTH/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Canadian Coast Guard deckhand rescue specialists Irene Barriault, left, and Stefan Pew, centre, assist Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary unit training officer Paul Hebbel, right, to load a rescue dummy onto the Cape Lampton, out of Port Dover, for training exercises on Lake Erie Sunday. The CCGA, along with its search and rescue partners, spent the weekend performing maritime emergency exercises in Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The exercises were conducted as part of ongoing training between the CCGA, CCG, Department of National Defence and Niagara CARES the local unit of the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association. On Sunday, crews loaded up at Sugarbush Harbour Marina in Port Colborne. Also included in the local exercise were Sandman III, Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue, and Dirt Water Fox. Air support was provided by 424 Transport and Rescue Squadron at 8 Wing/CFB Trenton, along with CARES Niagara. The exercises were meant to test the shared response to distress incidents on the Great Lakes to ensure search and rescue teams are as prepared as possible to respond and rescue people on the water.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **EDUCATION:** Top Canadian band delivers donations for Niagara students

Sheepdogs shine at school

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

The Sheepdogs are helping spread the love of music to Niagara students.

And that's The Way It Is. Brothers Ewan and Shamus Currie, from the three-time Juno Award-winning band from Saskatoon, stopped at DSBN Academy in St. Catharines last Thursday morning to celebrate \$30,000 in donations made to local school music programs.

Through MusiCounts, funds provided by Hockey Night in St. Catharines and Music Canada were distributed to DSBN Academy, Notre Dame College School in Welland and Westlane Secondary School in Niagara Falls.

"We were lucky to grow up

in a very musical family," said Ewan Currie, who plays keyboards and trombone with the band. "Whether music is something that you want as a career or just a hobby, it's something that we should all have in our lives, especially when growing up."

The Sheepdogs brothers put in a special performance at the academy, to which they presented \$10,000 worth of instruments for its music students.

The Niagara sites represent three out of 69 schools nationwide receiving a total \$385,000 from this year's MusiCounts Band Aid program.

MusiCounts, Canada's music education charity associated with the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, is on

a mission to ensure children regardless of socioeconomic circumstances or cultural background have access to music programs through their schools.

Hockey Night in St. Catharines is a charity hockey game featuring Canadian MPs and elite hockey players that raises money for the United Way of St. Catharines and District and Parkinson's disease research, among others.

Since the first game in 2010, the event has raised more than \$700,000 for charities, including MusiCounts.

"Every year, I have been amazed at the success of Hockey Night in St. Catharines and through United Way of St. Catharines and District, how we have been able to help fund vital programs for the

disadvantaged in our community.

"But what is happening here today is pure magic," St. Catharines MP Rick Dykstra said last Thursday.

The Sheepdogs soared to success when they were featured on the Aug. 18, 2011 cover of *Rolling Stone* magazine, the first unsigned act to do so. The band subsequently signed with Atlantic Records and produced such hits as *The Way It Is* and *I Don't Know*.

The band's nearest scheduled performances are July 2 with Yonder Mountain String Band at Canalside in Buffalo, and the WayHome Festival that runs July 24 to 26 in Oro-Medonte, Ont.

This is the year's second big music gift to a Niagara school



BOB FVANCISZYN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Brothers Ewan and Shamus Currie from the three-time Juno award winning group The Sheepdogs visited DSBN Academy Thursday in St. Catharines to help handout \$30,000 in donations from MusiCounts to three Niagara schools for their music programs

from a chart-topping band.

In February, Tennessee-based country supergroup Lady Antebellum donated 35 ukuleles to Welland's Fitch

Street School while the band was performing in Niagara Falls.

greg.furminger@sunmedia.ca

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **CROHN'S DISEASE:** Welland girl on a mission to cure gastrointestinal illness

A 'local hero' for Crohn's at 10

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

Emma Haist loves strawberry, raspberries, cucumbers and pasta sauce. But they don't like her.

So that means with strawberry shortcake season just ahead, the Welland girl who turns 11 soon will have to sit it out — and for the rest of her life, unless she can help change that for herself and tens of thousands of other Canadians.

It was upon hospitalization on her 10th birthday, and after showing symptoms for eight months before that, that the fifth-grader at Fitch Street School came to be diagnosed with Crohn's disease.

"It means a whole change in diet," says mom Marlene.

No foods with seeds. No nuts, no corn, nothing with a kid's favourite, hotdogs.

"Your digestive system doesn't break that down," Marlene says.

But while Crohn's may have taken a big bite out of the bespectacled blonde's former

LEARN MORE AND DONATE

www.crohnsandcolitis.ca
www.facebook.com/NiagaraCFC (Niagara chapter Facebook page)
www.gutsywalk.ca (click on 'donate' and search Emma Haist)

eating habits, the youngest is biting back.

Emma has made it her mission to spread awareness of the disease and raise money for research.

"I just want to find a cure," she says, as schoolmates and teachers rally behind her for the upcoming Gutsy Walk for Crohn's and Colitis Canada.

The Niagara fundraiser takes place June 7 at the Lock 3 complex in St. Catharines.

Emma designed and since February has been selling \$15 walk T-shirts to raise money, so far collecting more than \$2,270. With white printing on cotton fabric of the national

foundation's colour, they say: "I wear purple for Emma."

But that's not all she's done. Last fall, she addressed the Lionses Club in Fenwick about the disease that will require her to travel every eight weeks to McMaster medical centre in Hamilton to receive medicine for her illness intransitively.

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, both bowel diseases, inflame the lining of the gastrointestinal tract and disrupt the body's ability to digest food, absorb nutrition and eliminate waste in a healthy manner. Emma's Crohn's is characterized by ulcers where the small and large intestines meet.

The girl has also been holding fundraising barbecues in hopes of finding a cure.

All her efforts aren't going unnoticed.

"A young person living with Crohn's who is already out public speaking on the subject really caught my attention," says Maria Glidden, Crohn's and Colitis Canada's development co-ordinator for Ontario's southwestern chap-

ters. For that, she has decided to award Emma with a special role for Niagara's Gutsy Walk in 2016.

"When I started hearing about Emma, I thought she's got to be honorary chair next year," Glidden says.

"She's really got a great attitude and positive energy" that will help her carry on through life with Crohn's, she adds.

"She just kind of decided to own it."

Emma fits into Crohn's and Colitis Canada's goal of making it better known that the diseases that typically appear in a person's late teen years or early 20s is more and more affecting children. Its rate in kids under age 10 has doubled over the past decade.

Glidden's own daughter was diagnosed at age nine with ulcerative colitis.

At the Haist family dinner table, meals with dad Roger and sisters Sarah, 9, and Hayley, 13, have required some adjustments to meet Emma's dietary needs.



Emma Haist poses for a photo with her supporters at Fitch Street School.

GREG FURMINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

"We always have to consider what we're cooking," her mom Marlene says.

For a person living with Crohn's or colitis, the wrong foods could trigger abdominal pain, cramping, gas, bloating, fatigue, diarrhea and loss of appetite.

Canada has among the highest rates of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in the world, with nearly 233,000 adults and children living with these debilitating diseases; 129,000 with Crohn's and 140,000 with colitis, the foundation's website says.

Crohn's and colitis now

impact 2.5 times the number of Canadians as multiple sclerosis.

Crohn's disease is a lifelong illness without a cure whereas colitis can be eliminated through surgery.

Emma hopes to help the fight against Crohn's in any way she can, by raising research funds from the front of a grocery store or by getting more people to take notice by speaking in front of crowds.

Says Glidden: "She's a local hero for doing it."

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Twitter: @Greg4The1rb

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■ CRIME

Sex offender to be extradited

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

American fugitive William Louis Muraco, arrested in Port Colborne and convicted of failing to report to local authorities as a sex offender, was ordered deported from Canada.

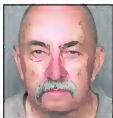
The 70-year-old who has served three life sentences for child sex offences will likely remain on Canadian soil for at least the next 30 days.

In Superior Court of Justice in St. Catharines May 19, Judge Joseph Quinn complied with a request by the federal justice department that Muraco be extradited to the U.S.

Muraco now has 30 days to appeal the order.

"You will not be surrendered until 30 days have passed," Quinn told Muraco.

If an appeal is filed, the jus-



WILLIAM LOUIS MURACO

tice department has 60 days to consider the appeal.

Niagara Regional Police arrested Muraco at a Port Colborne motel Feb. 4 after receiving information from U.S. Marshals Service that he was in Canada.

The convicted sex offender,

who U.S. officials have deemed a high risk to re-offend, is wanted in Idaho on an alleged parole violation.

Court was told Muraco entered Canada Jan. 9 at a border crossing in southern Saskatchewan.

He didn't advise police of his

presence within seven days of arriving in Niagara, as he was supposed to under Christopher's Law.

Christopher's Law established a registry for convicted, dangerous high-risk sexual offenders. It requires offenders to register with police in the

jurisdiction where the offender will reside or is residing.

Muraco pleaded guilty in March to failing to report to Niagara authorities. He was sentenced to time served.

alison.langley@postmedia.ca
Twitter: @nalslangley

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

Detail Design Study
Highway 3 from Rose Hill Road to Highway 140
G.W.P. 2059-14-00

THE PROJECT

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained D.M. Wills Associates Limited to conduct a detail design study for pavement rehabilitation on Highway 3 from Rose Hill Road to Highway 140 (see Key Map).

The proposed project will include:

- The rehabilitation of the existing pavement in both directions, which will include main lanes, turning lanes, speed change lanes, shoulders, overpasses and underpasses, intersections, intersecting side roads and commercial/private entrances within the project limits and the right-of-way.
- Safety improvements including guide rail extension/replacement and signs, as required.
- Non-structural entrance culvert review and replacements and drainage improvement, as required.
- Entrance deficiency review for commercial and residential entrances within the limits of the project.
- Roadside safety review.
- Traffic counting loop reinstatements.
- Detector loop upgrades to video camera.
- Electrical upgrades.



KEY MAP

THE PROCESS

This detail design is following an approved planning process under the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000) for a Group "C" project and will document the existing conditions and sensitivities of the study areas, examine potential impacts/changes, generate and evaluate alternatives when applicable, give recommendations for proposed mitigation and outline any commitments for future environmental work.

COMMENTS

We would appreciate receiving any comments, information or suggestions that you may have regarding this project. Your comments should be directed to:

Michael Lang, P.Eng.
Project Manager
D.M. Wills Associates Limited
150 Jameson Drive
Peterborough, ON K9J 0B9
tel: 705-742-2297 ext. 241
fax: 705-741-3588
e-mail: mlang@dmwills.com

Hossein Hosseini, M.Eng., P.Eng.
Project Engineer
Ministry of Transportation
Central Region Planning and Design Office, Hamilton/Niagara
1201 Wilson Avenue, Building D, 4th Floor
Downsview, ON M3M 1J8
tel: 416-235-5513
fax: 416-235-5323
e-mail: hossein.hosseini@ontario.ca

Comments and information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Comments will be maintained on file for use during the Study and will be included in the Study documentation. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

Des renseignements sont disponibles en français en composant 519 853-4914, poste 104, Brad Dufour, Courriel: bdufour@ecotecenvironmental.com

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IN BRIEF

Good news for Goodwill

Goodwill Niagara got a funding boost at a recent 21st anniversary celebration at the Stokes Community Building in St. Catharines.

At the event, it was revealed Goodwill had received a three-year, \$315,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The money will let it establish a retail-training centre in Port Erie and Port Colborne, and a new regional recycling centre to act as central hub for its stores.

Goodwill provides work opportunities and skill development for people with barriers to employment or independence. It also provides affordable housing for seniors.

It has five stores in Niagara.

Inflicted stature

Niagara Inflatables and Games Inc. recently took home a 2015

Festivals and Events Ontario "service excellence award."

It's the second time in four years the company has been recognized by the leading representative of the provincial-events industry.

The recent award was for "alternative entertainment supplier."

Hard hats off to builders

Niagara Home Builders' Association is celebrating its 60th anniversary.

To mark the occasion, it held a special "60th anniversary president's dinner" at Peninsula Lakes Golf in Pelham on May 19.

For more information visit: niagarahomebuildersassociation.ca



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IN BRIEF

Gospel chorus coming to Fonthill this month

Fonthill United Church is hosting a special visit from the Tri-City Gospel Chorus.

A 7 p.m. performance will take place Sunday, May 31. There is no admission charge, but a goodwill offering will be accepted. The 12-year-old chorus, which does only five shows a year, is booked into 2018.

Tri-City Gospel Chorus's hundred members span southern Ontario from Huntsville to Peterborough to Guelph and to Welland.

Most Tri-City music is sung without accompaniment in the barbershop mode, but recently it added a few gospel songs using

background music while still singing four-part harmony. Praise, humour, fellowship and worshipping Christ as our Saviour were to be the building blocks on which the chorus was founded.

Company hired for P3 project

Pelham town council has agreed to hire The CCS Group at a cost of \$8,500, to seek out provincial and federal grant opportunities for a public-private partnership (P3) on development of a multifaceted community

centre.

The consulting firm will file a P3 application by June 12, and conduct three or four public consultations and meetings with stakeholders over the next two months to see if other suitable funding opportunities are available, a town bulletin said.

Fonthill firefighters pitch in for July 1 fireworks

Members from the Fonthill Fire Fighters Association presented town council with a \$2,500 donation toward Pelham's Canada

Day fireworks. The association holds an annual boat drive to help raise money toward the fireworks display.

Grain merchandising expansion good for Port

Toronto-based grain storage and handling company Cereals Global Ag Corp. has expanded its operations by opening a grain merchandising office in Guelph.

The new location will play a key role in extending the company's

trading and merchandising reach into Ontario and eastern Canadian markets.

The expansion of the merchandising presence in Ontario will contribute to enhancing the market opportunity for our western Canadian grain origin business," CEO Patrick Braden said in a news release. "Additionally, we view that this extended footprint will contribute to improving the utilization rates of our storage and terminal facilities at Port Colborne."

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IN BRIEF

2 Niagarans on Shreddies top 10 list

A Niagara Falls boxer and a Beamsville nurse tend to animals in her spare time are among the top 10 finalists in Post Shreddies'

Search for Goodness campaign. The company's search launched in March asked Canadians to nominate and vote for the people they believe should be recognized for their selfless commitment to their community. There were more than

160 nominations and 42,687 votes cast.

Among the finalists are two from Niagara.

Former Olympian Mike Strange traded his boxing gloves for running shoes and started Running for the Fight. The run raises awareness and money to knock out childhood cancer. To date, more than \$200,000 has been raised.

Pam Huson is a palliative care nurse by day and an animal helper by night. She created a network

of volunteer foster homes to help look after animals until she can find permanent homes. She also organizes fundraisers to help subsidize surgeries for foster animals.

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■ **POLICING:** Proposed action to prevent another Bosma tragedy

Cop board considers 'Kijiji safe zone' for online sellers

KARENA WALTER
Postmedia Network

Niagara Regional Police are looking into

the possibility of creating "safe zones" for strangers meeting for Internet online sale transactions.

The idea would allow people who are

buying and selling items on Internet sites such as Kijiji to meet in a police station parking lot.

"Part of the benefits obviously are to enhance public safety for some of the transactions," said Chief Jeff McGuire, who was asked by Niagara police services board chair Bob Gale earlier this year to look into the idea.

A report on whether the concept can be carried out will come back to the board as early as next month.

The idea comes in the wake of the killing of Tim Bosma of Ancas-

ter, who vanished in May 2013 after leaving his home with two men to test drive a truck he was selling on Kijiji. His charred remains were later found on a farm in Ayr and a first-degree murder trial is before the courts.

Gale said Thursday he hopes residents don't conduct transactions at their homes and do them in public places like City Hall or the courthouse while the NRP looks into the issue.

He asked McGuire to launch an operational pilot as soon as possible.

McGuire said smaller police

services in Orangeville and Midland recently created zones.

In Niagara, there are several challenges, including legal issues.

People would meet in a police parking lot, but police won't actually be watching the transactions in person or on camera. McGuire said a "false sense of security" or some liability issues could develop as a result.

Board member Terry Bonham said the police needs to be very careful about what it calls the space since the intention isn't to have the area policed or guarantee safety. "If we are to present that kind of a position, it's going to be incumbent upon us to take extra steps to ensure that and to avoid potential liability," Bonham said.

McGuire agreed it should be called by a different name, but added there is a safety context by virtue of the location. "You would expect, if somebody's looking to rip somebody off or something's going to happen, and the person says, 'Meet me at a police station,' that's probably going to deter a lot of those people."

Space is another challenge for the NRP. McGuire said there's nowhere to park at stations in District 1 and 2, which includes St. Catharines and Niagara Falls. The hours kept at smaller police stations may also make some sites unsuitable.

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■ PILOT EXTENDED

20 more months for regional transit

ROB HOULE

Postmedia Network

It will be status quo on Niagara Regional Transit for the foreseeable

future.

Last Thursday night, St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik presented an amendment to a motion made earlier this month, to make it clear Niagara

Region endorses in principle the creation of an intermunicipal transit system.

Sendzik's amendment also extends the life of the pilot project — originally due to end in September — by 20 months.

In that time, transit providers in Welland, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls will be asked to work together to find a plan to provide a permanent regional service.

That motion from May 7 was presented by Port Colborne Coun. David Barrick. It steered staff way from seeking the triple majority (a majority of people on council, a majority of local councils and a majority of eligible voters) that would be required for the region to play a role in implementing a permanent system beyond the pilot phase.

Several times at Thursday's regional council meeting, councillors spoke of the negative feedback they received from residents who believed council was ending the regional transit service.

Sendzik's amendment allays those fears by extending the pilot program another 20 months while

the three main providers work on their own plan, which the region might help fund but would not be a stakeholder in.

Extending and reintroducing the word "pilot" allows the region to continue funding the regional system via grants provided to the big three transit systems.

"I wasn't at the business committee-of-the-whole — I actually was in Ottawa at a poverty summit," Sendzik said in speaking to his proposed amendment.

"And at the poverty summit, there was discussion about what communities are doing across Canada to address issues of poverty. And in three specific discussions, transit played a very important role in how communities were coming together to create the programs that help to mitigate the impact that low-income has on the mobility of people."

Sendzik said the goal should be a fully integrated intermunicipal transit system.

"We need to be working towards one transit system. One transit system that puts the user at the centre — not the cities ... but the user."

"We have to work towards a better model. And I will say, a singular model in which we will have truly integrated intermunicipal transit."

The motion as amended received wide support and was passed 26-1, with St. Catharines Coun. Andy Petrowski the lone dissenter.

"It wouldn't surprise anybody that I have problems with our current transit system," Petrowski said. "I've always said I support transit in Niagara, I just don't support the current delivery system."

He asked how much the regional transit system was losing per year (the budget is approximately \$3 million). While manager of transportation systems and planning Kumar Ranjan did not have that figure, he noted no transit system in Canada operates at a profit.

"I support a transit system that is actually a true transit system," Petrowski said. "I support the cities or the professionals running it. I wish this motion would just identify that, pass it out to them and send us the invoice, we'll write the cheque."

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **MUSIC:** Retooled festival may return in October

A summer without SCENE

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

Has SCENE fled the scene? Just more than a month before the annual St. Catharines music festival usually takes place, there has been no word on venues, artists or whether it will even take place. The closest thing to an official announcement has been a Facebook post on April 16 assuring fans "we're not dead yet," and that some "growing pains" have forced organizers to look at other options.

It also said a festival wasn't likely for June or July this year.

Contacted Wednesday, SCENE founder Steve Stumble said the event will likely return in October to avoid competing with the large summer music festivals, which made returning to Montebello Park

this year with big name acts difficult.

"The festival circuit for the summer is over the top," he said. "The volume of major events in the radius is far bigger than ever before."

With so much competition for their services — about 20 major music festivals in southern Ontario last year — artists can charge a premium, which drives up costs all around, said Stumble. For a relatively small festival like SCENE, which doesn't rely on grants or government support, the price tag is enormous.

"The reality is that Toronto and southern Ontario has become the wild west of festivals, and all of those are huge corporations that have tremendous reach or significant government support," he said.

"Festivals are not cheap for consumers and costly to produce. We are not a huge entity and cannot take the risk of being crushed by Goliath."

Last year, SCENE made a dramatic leap by partnering with Toronto-based promoters Union Events, moving the main stage from Market Square to Montebello Park and bringing in established acts like Lights, The Arkells, Marianas Trench and The Sheepdogs. It also expanded to two days. Reaction was mixed among longtime attendees, but more than 10,000 people showed up to set a new attendance record.

SCENE started in 1996 with a handful of bands playing three downtown venues. As word spread, it eventually grew into a one-day festival offering more than 100 acts



Max Kerman of the Arkells performing at last year's SCENE festival.

BOB TYMCZYK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

playing 10 or more venues, bringing about 6,000 people to downtown St. Catharines.

Bands including Billy Talent, Alexisonfire and Bedouin Soundclash were discovered via SCENE, and the festival developed a reputation as a homegrown, indie showcase.

Expanding to Montebello Park last year was an attempt to "take it to a whole other level," said former co-ordinator Pat Murphy last year.

Stumble said it was "a way

to test the waters about what the community desired" and hopes to return to Montebello in the near future.

But for SCENE's 20th year, the "roadblocks" proved too much. Even the upcoming Pan Am Games (July 10 to 26) were a factor: The Games have booked most paid duty officers for the month.

"This has made summer planning less of an option."

If there's a silver lining to delaying until October, said

Stumble, it's giving college and university students a chance to see the event.

He and co-producer Jennifer Anderson will also be "scaling back" to a more traditional SCENE, with about 60 to 80 acts performing over two days.

"The festival will go on," he said. "We simply have to be strategic about when and make it viable."

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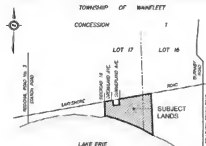
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE # 1

PROPOSED LAKEWOOD BEACH DEVELOPMENT
17705 LAKESHORE ROAD, TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET
WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICINGMUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
INTEGRATED WITH A DRAFT PLAN OF CONDOMINIUM UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

Saturday - June 13, 2015

Firefighters Memorial Community Hall, 31907 Park Street, Wainfleet, Ontario, L0S 1V0

Lakewood Beach Properties Limited (Lakewood) is proposing a low density residential development at 17705 Lakeshore Road in the Township of Wainfleet, Regional Municipality of Niagara. The lands subject to the Class Environment Assessment are shown on the key plan below. The subject lands are 14.3 hectares (35.3 acres) and are located on the south side of Lakeshore Road between Solarium 16 and Bellevue Beach Road, bordering the Lake Erie shoreline. The Casey Municipal Centre is situated along the west limit of the property. The proposed Draft Plan of Condominium currently includes 78 hectares (19.2 acres) within this area.



9 to 11 a.m. - Open House

11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Presentation and Discussion

The proponent (Lakewood) is seeking approval of a Draft Plan of Condominium under section 51 of the Planning Act, for 41 single-detached residential units together with common element areas required for private internal roads, site servicing infrastructure, walkway linkages and designated Power's Road Habitat.

A Complete Application for Draft Plan of Condominium approval and Zoning Bylaw Amendment was received by the Township of Wainfleet in November 2014. The Township of Wainfleet Official Plan approved by the Ontario Municipal Board on August 14, 2014, recognizes the proposed Lakewood Beach Development, establishes the required land use designations and provides the policy basis for this project.

Concurrent with the Draft Plan of Condominium application, Notice was provided to the Township of Wainfleet and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) that Water and Wastewater Servicing for the Lakewood Beach Development is being planned as a Schedule C project in accordance with section A.2.9 of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act (EAA), through Integration with Draft Plan of Condominium approval under the Planning Act. Public Information Centre # 1 (PIC # 1) is the first of 3 mandatory points of public contact under the Integrated Municipal Class EA process. It will also serve as an information Meeting required under the Planning Act. PIC # 1 will provide information on:

o The Proposed Draft Plan of Vacant Land Condominium

o Alternative Solutions for Water and Wastewater Servicing being considered under the Municipal Class EA process

The purpose of PIC # 1 is for the public and any interested stakeholders to receive information and provide feedback on the proposed Draft Plan of Condominium and the related Water and Wastewater Servicing Alternatives under consideration following the Integrated Municipal Class EA process. Public consultation and input is an integral part of both the Municipal Class EA and Planning Act processes, as the proponent works toward establishing sustainable Water and Wastewater Servicing for the Lakewood Beach Project.

This Notice issued on May 28, 2015.

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Fax: 905-977-0700
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Michael Sullivan, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Planning
Township of Wainfleet
31940 Highway 3, PO Box 40
St. Catharines, ON L0S 1V0
Tel: 905-899-3403 Ext. 225
Email: planning@wainfleet.ca

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